

**BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**MONDAY, JUNE 27, 2005**

The monthly meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held on Monday, June 27, 2005, in the Cafeteria of Mt. Hope High School, 199 Chestnut Street, in Bristol, RI. The Chairperson, Marjorie J. McBride, called the meeting to order at approximately 7:01 p.m.

**Present:** Marjorie J. McBride, William A. Estrella, Jr., William M. O'Dell, Thomas E. Skuba, Paul E. Brule, Joyce M. Kinsella, John P. Saviano, Paul Silva and Beverly Z. Travers; Edward P. Mara, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools; Donna Bettencourt-Glavin, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Grants; Jane F. Correia, Director of Administration and Finance; Leslie A. Neubauer, Director of Pupil Personnel Services; and Andrew Henneous, Esq., District Solicitor

**Absent:** none

**OPENING BUSINESS**

All present were invited to join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Mr. O'Dell read the District's Mission Statement.

## **Accolades**

**Congratulations to the following winners of the Bristol County Water Authority Conservation Contest.**

**Essay Contest: Claire Randall, Lindsay Dion, Brian Grandgeorge, and Antonio Ferro**

**Poster Contest: Ava Grace Mascena, Alexandra Wetherald, Benjamin Cloutier, Damien Mendonza, Emma Riley, Timmy Pereira, Monnize Sobrinho and Tori Deschenes**

**Congratulations to these middle school students who have been awarded scholarships to the Herreshoff Museum Summer Sailing Program for their outstanding performance as KMS Young Mariners: Heather Morreo, Brian Medeiros, Domenique Latessa, Anthony Marshall and Mike Ferrara.**

**The School Committee wishes to thank the people who served as judges for the**

**Mt. Hope Senior Project:**

**Lisa Melmed (Mt. Hope High School English Teacher)**

**Beth Chew (Mt. Hope High School Librarian)**

**John Marshall (Mt. Hope High School Social Studies Teacher)**

**Kay Dodge (East Bay Educational Collaborative)**

**Caroline Caswell (East Providence High School Assistant Principal)**

**Donna Glavin (Bristol-Warren Regional Assistant Superintendent)**

**Paula Faria (Mt. Hope High School Social Studies Teacher)**

**Valerie Pasqual (Mt. Hope High School English Teacher)**

**Susan Rotblat Walker (Rhode Island Department of Education)**

**Tom Skuba (School Board)**

**Lauren Johnson (Narragansett High School Senior Project Coordinator)**

**Beth Penkala (Mt. Hope High School Math Teacher)**

**Cindy Marszalek (Mt. Hope High School Special Education Teacher)**

**Paul Silvia (School Board)**

**Gail Darmonday (Portsmouth High School Technology)**

**Betty Pleacher (East Bay Chamber of Commerce)**

**Anne Fales (Retired Mt. Hope High School English Teacher)**

**John Saviano (School Board)**

**Patrick Jackson (Mt. Hope High School English Dept. Chair and Teacher)**

**The Rhode Island Art Education Association has chosen one of our Kickemuit teachers as the RIAEA 2005 Middle School Art Educator of the Year. Congratulations to: Kathleen Dwyer.**

**Congratulation and a very special Thank You to the 2004-2005 District Teachers of the Year:**

**Byfield Marilyn McFadden**

**Colt Andrews Donna Celone**

**Guiteras Phyllis Glavin**

**Hugh Cole Melissa Velleca**

**Kickemuit Patricia Cormier**

**Mt. Hope Feliciana Figueiredo**

**Mary V. Quirk Shannon Swist**

**Reynolds Geraldine Johnston**

**Rockwell Kelly Brum**

**Announcing the 2004-2005 TEACHER OF THE YEAR FOR THE  
BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, who will be  
nominated to the National Teacher of the Year Program: Patricia  
Cormier**

**Good luck and a special thank you to this year's retirees:**

**John Aguiar Social Studies Teacher, Mt. Hope High School**

**Joan Alose Principal, Guiteras School**

**Edward Connolly Guidance Counselor, Mt. Hope High School**

**Marianne Douglas Math Teacher, Mt. Hope High School**

**Feliciana Figueiredo Guidance Counselor, Mt. Hope High School**

**Deborah Fontaine Business Teacher, Mt. Hope High School**

**Cheryl Gray Social Studies Teacher, Kickemuit**

**Janice Johnson Librarian**

**Stephen Lehrer Technology**

**Stephen Perry English Teacher, Kickemuit**

**Steven Babiec Science Teacher, Mt. Hope High School**

**Douglas Lanzire Health and Physical Education Teacher**

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Regarding the lay-off of the sixth grade band teacher:**

**1) Lydea Irwin, recent graduate of Mt. Hope and member of the band, said students will not be interested in joining the band later than sixth grade; if not for the middle school band, the high school band would be half the size it is and some students would drop out of school; Boston College, RPI, Worcester Polytech and MIT are a few of the prestigious schools into which band members have been accepted.**

**2) Elizabeth Machado, whose son and stepson are in the band, said band and Mrs. Labonte were a large factor in getting her sons to go to school; she is upset that Mr. Arsenault is going to quit and she asked the Committee to keep Mrs. Labonte.**

**3) Dana Pion, band parent and former School Committee member, asked the Committee to wait for “everything to wash out” before closing the position on the band teacher; bothered to see it changed to after school for a fee and feels every sport should be set up this way also; band teaches pride, responsibility and confidence; Bristol needs its host band on the Fourth of July.**

**4) Lawrence Verria, on behalf of his three daughters, said Mrs. Labonte, through the middle school band program, made his daughter feel at home in this new community and school setting, and helps children develop confidence and a personal signature; the band**

has earned respect and high praise in a District which has been beaten up. Mr. Arsenault has shaped the band into a first class program, respected throughout the State and nation, which should be expanded and celebrated, not cut.

5) Elizabeth Lombardo, whose passion for music is shared by Mrs. Labonte and countless other students, said that when fifth grade band was cut, they were told more cuts would not happen; there is a direct correlation between sixth grade band and the Mt. Hope marching band. Music is the universal subject; the pride of Bristol and Warren is at stake; Bristol, Warren, the school district, and the band need Mrs. Labonte.

6) Karen Lynch, a Reynolds parent, said \$2.1M was spent on the auditorium while the children at Reynolds were “sitting in a dump,” with exposed radiators, worn stair treads, an old malfunctioning heating system, and windows that didn’t open. People say music is cut first, but asset protection is cut first; the budget is the budget and we all need to fight for more money.

7) Kathy Copeland, a parent, agreed that we need to fight for more money, but on the state level. Her daughter, who took advantage of fifth grade band, has a love of music to last a lifetime—a priceless gift. She appreciates the accommodations to an after school program, but this will force students to choose between band and sports.

**8) David Marshall, a 1994 graduate of Mt. Hope and Director of Music for the Swansea school system, explained that Swansea has restructured its program to three seatings of instruction after school; many students are lost from the program and it creates a conflict with other extra curricular activities; the dropoff rate for the 181 5th grade participants is 45% in the first year and falls to 7% by the ninth grade—“this is not good enough for Bristol Warren.”**

**9) Robert Franzblau, Ph.D. in music education who had taught several Mt. Hope graduates, said Bristol Warren has a model music program; there is growing research to support the value of students being involved in vibrant music programs--they do better in school all around. He quoted Rod Page regarding arts education programs being in danger because of No Child Left Behind; he feels this is wrong – NCLB included arts as a core academic subject. He asked the Committee to take a broad view of the situation and support a high quality education with arts education for all, not just those who can afford it.**

**10) Roger Cichy, composer of “Reliance,” written for the Mt. Hope band, said removing 6th grade band eliminates the feeder program and impacts the number of students enrolled and the quality and comprehensiveness of what can occur at the high school level; the band develops school pride and keeps kids interested; music is an interdisciplinary subject and changing 6th grade band to an after**

**school program will bring harm to the overall climate of middle school students.**

**11) Dr. Patricia Cichy, Chair of Music at Providence College, said switching music to after school programs greatly reduces the number of participants, and if restored, takes six years to rebuild. Music students rank 100 points higher in SAT scores, are more likely to participate in math and science fairs, hold an office and win an award for writing an essay or poem; music keeps kids in school. She asked the Committee to “vote with open eyes.”**

**12) George Correia, Warren resident and a junior high school band teacher, said the effects were devastating when Pawtucket cut their program 12 years ago. He played in the Bristol High School Band 30 years ago which gave him his only opportunity to travel; band students today are far better—the District has something special and if we lose it, we will want it back.**

**13) Jeff Bracket said that as a resident, voter, tax payer and parent, he will consider a strong music program when choosing a school for his child. As Bristol Warren’s eighth grade band director, he feels teaching over 200 kids by himself cannot be done--this cut will be the end of the band program. The Committee’s decision will affect hundreds of students and hundreds down the road; the only way for the music program to flourish and excel is to keep the music staff in tact.**



**14) Dr. Donald J. Smith: for the 10 years he has lived in Rhode Island, he has been very fond of Bristol Warren. As a music education researcher, he knows that music programs influence student achievement and attendance and offered to do a longitudinal scientific study of the effects of cutting the program should the Committee decided to do so; he hopes they do not; he teaches music at a middle school and Mrs. Labonte is one of his best competitors.**

**15) Allison Halaburda said she started band in Bristol Warren in the fifth grade; the program not only helped her develop her talent as a musician, but has helped her shape her life as an adult, gave her an opportunity to travel and participate in other music festivals and work under world class musicians, conductors, professors and directors; the band also played a major role in the achievement of academic honors, scholarships and acceptance into the Hartt School of Music at the University of Hartford. She asked the Committee to keep the music program in our district alive for future students.**

**16) John Beaulieu said his children Amanda and Justin benefited greatly from the band program. As an elementary instrumental music teacher, he warned that moving sixth grade band to an after school program will not work. 50% of the students who start in grade 5 will continue in high school. He pointed out that our mission statement calls for high standards -- we are ignoring high standards.**

**17) Diane Davis just finished her 24th year of volunteering; she would hate to see any more of the band program be lost. As Welfare Director for Bristol, she feels the children of the many needy families in Bristol will not have the special opportunity to participate in the band. She takes great pride in seeing our students march down the street in Bristol, or Woonsocket, or Washington, DC or Florida—"they are the best."**

**18) Thomas DaPonte, former School Committee Member, asked the Committee to make the right decision; we found the money for the Arts Magnet Program and other issues—we have to do it again. He made an analogy to sports--Teddy Brusche leaves it all on the field, Mrs. Labonte leaves it all with the kids.**

**19) Kim Phelan spoke on behalf of her daughter, Amber Garcia, a 15 year old member of the marching band. Amber knew at a young age that she wanted to be in the marching band; the one place that no one judges you is in the band room; band keeps her focused, sober and sane; she asked the Committee to think about what they are taking away from the students and the parents who help with the band.**

**20) Jay Moniz, who graduated from Mt. Hope this June, said that if it were not for band, he probably would not have made it through high school--the people there are his best friends.**

**21) Donna Borges said Swansea had cut their 5th and 6th grade band**

programs, the band tumbled and after 20 years, the program still is not what it used to be. It's important to get the interest of the students in the lower grades; she pleaded with the Committee to consider what they are cutting.

**Regarding the Rockwell Principal, Mrs. Latessa:**

22) Jared Ramos, a fourth grade student at Rockwell, said his mother taught him to fight for what he believes in—he wants Mrs. Latessa to stay at Rockwell. Mrs. Latessa let the students have a yoyo league, she says “Hi” to them each morning, she keeps them from strangers, and the number one reason is his mother saw tears in Mrs. Latessa's eyes when she passed out the students' pictures. His Mom thinks we should keep Mrs. Latessa and Jared thinks so, too.

23) Scott Medeiros, Co-President of the Rockwell PTO for the coming year, said Mrs. Latessa's son was in a bad accident on Saturday and was hurt badly; he expressed sympathy for Mrs. Latessa and her family. Also, an anonymous commentary created misleading stories about the administration at Rockwell; a handful of individuals have a personal conflict with Mrs. Latessa. He supports her as do the staff, students and parents; he asked that Mrs. Latessa stay.

24) Erin Asciola spoke on behalf of a majority of parents and staff at Rockwell. She brought documentation of the great job Mrs. Latessa

has done citing the SALT report, a safety record beyond reproach, ELA and math levels well above the District and State average, and high levels of staff commitment; thanks to Mrs. Latessa, Rockwell has an accelerated reader program, a partnership with Roger Williams University, Math and Science Night, and Family Fun Nights. A survey of 58 families had 51 positive responses. She asked that the Committee reconsider – she feels the children deserve the best—Mrs. Latessa.

25) Joe Asciola, Co-President of the Rockwell PTO, is upset that the situation at Rockwell has been allowed to fester to the point that one of the best principals in the system will be losing her job. He asked why a solid educator should be let go.

Mrs. McBride thanked everyone for their input.

Mrs. McBride introduced and welcomed the new School Committee member representing Warren—Mr. Paul Brule.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. Skuba, seconded by Mr. Silva, motioned to go into Executive Session to discuss sections I and K of Personnel Recommendation #S 2005-26. After discussion on the appropriateness and legality of a personnel discussion at this time in the meeting, the Committee

**approved the motion by a vote of 7 to 0; Mr. Brule abstained and Mrs. McBride chose not to vote as Chair.**

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION – 8:40 PM**

**In accordance with Open Meeting Laws 42-46-5(a)(1)-(9), 2(b), Executive Session was called to order at 8:40 PM to discuss personnel. The Committee will take a vote in open session at the conclusion of Executive Session.**

#### **RESUMPTION OF MEETING – 9:14 PM**

**Discussed in Executive Session was personnel.**

**With respect to Section I of Personnel Recommendations, Attorney Henneous requested time to do additional research and advised the Committee that it was not appropriate to discuss K and I in closed session.**

**Mr. Estrella motioned to table Superintendent's Recommendation #S2005-26 Section I from the consent agenda for legal purposes; Ms. Travers seconded; the motion passed 7 to 0 with Mr. Brule abstaining and Mrs. McBride choosing not to vote.**

**Mr. Silva motioned to remove #S2005-26 Section K from the consent vote; Mr. Estrella seconded. The motion passed 7 to 0 with Mr. Brule abstaining and Mrs. McBride choosing not to vote.**

**Ms. Travers motioned to approve the consent agenda absent Section K; Mr. Estrella seconded. The motion passed 7 to 0 with Mr. Brule abstaining and Mrs. McBride choosing not to vote.**

**Mr. Estrella motioned to seal the minutes to the May 23 and June 16 Executive Sessions; Ms. Travers seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 7 to 0; Mr. Brule abstained and Mrs. McBride chose not to vote. With a great deal of honor, as well as regret for losing some great talent, Dr. Mara read the list of retirees.**

#### **BUDGET/FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE**

**Mr. Skuba – Vote on the 05-06 fiscal budget will be later in the meeting.**

#### **POLICY/COMMUNITY AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE**

**Recommendation #PC 2005-05: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Policy / Community Affairs Subcommittee, approve the revised School Committee Policy KG Community Use of School Facilities (Second Reading)**

**Mr. Estrella motioned to approve; Ms. Travers seconded. The motion**

**passed by a vote of 7 to 0; Mr. Brule abstained and Mrs. McBride chose not to vote**

**Recommendation #PC 2005-07: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Policy / Community Affairs Subcommittee, approve the revised School Committee Policy JHCC Communicable Diseases (First Reading)**

**Mr. Estrella motioned to approve; Ms. Travers seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 7 to 0; Mr. Brule abstained and Mrs. McBride chose not to vote**

**Recommendation #PC 2005-08: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Policy / Community Affairs Subcommittee, approve the new School Committee Policy JHCE Student Nutrition (First Reading)**

**Ms. Travers moved to table until such time as the Subcommittee can confer with the Superintendent. Ms. Kinsella seconded. The motion passed 7 to 0, with Mr. Brule abstaining and Mrs. McBride not voting.**

**Recommendation #PC 2005-09: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Policy / Community Affairs Subcommittee, approve the revised School Committee Policy IIAA Textbook Selection and Adoption (First Reading)**

**Mr. Estrella motioned to approve; Ms. Travers seconded. Mr. Skuba would like to add “or workshop” after the word “meeting” in the**

second sentence. Mr. O'Dell motioned to amend the policy to state: "copies of the proposed textbook will be made available to School Committee members for review" after the word "meeting" in the second sentence. Mr. Estrella seconded. Mr. Saviano asked to remove the word "regular." Mr. Estrella motioned to amend the amendment and strike the word "regular;" Mr. O'Dell seconded; the motion passed 7 to 0. Mr. O'Dell's motion to amend the recommendation passed by a vote of 7 to 0. The motion to approve the recommended as amended passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

## **PERSONNEL / CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

Mr. Silva had nothing to report at this time.

## **CHAIRPERSON'S INITIATIVES**

The Byfield Fence project will be going before the Bristol Town Council on Wednesday.

The Building Committee will be going before the Bristol Town Council for the Colt/Andrews and Rockwell construction projects.

## **BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Skuba said the Committee has an issue requiring action.

Resignation: Mrs. McBride recused herself from discussion and vote on this matter. Ms. Travers motioned to accept the resignation of



**John McBride from the Building Committee. Mr. Skuba seconded. The motion passed 7 to 0. Mr. Estrella requested a letter of thanks be sent to Mr. McBride on behalf of the School Committee.**

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND ISSUES**

### **S2005-26 A-M: CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL**

**A. APPOINTMENTS:** That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following applicant to the position of Grade/Team Leader as listed below:

**1. Margaret McKiernan Grade/Team Leader – Kickemuit Middle**

**Effective: Immediately, for the 2005-06**

**School Year**

**Reason: To fill a vacancy**

**Funding: Operational Budget**

**B. BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM:** That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following applicants to the School of the 21st Century, Before and After School Program, as listed below (pending sufficient enrollment to warrant running this program and DCYF CANTS

clearance):

**1. Christy Brissette Child Care Intern (Part Time)**

**Effective:** Immediately, for the 2005-06 school year, pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements

**Reason:** To fill a vacancy

**Funding:** Parent Fees/Self-Sufficient

**2. Elizabeth Molak Child Care Intern (Part Time)**

**Effective:** Immediately, for the 2005-06 school year, pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements

**Reason:** To fill a vacancy

**Funding:** Parent Fees/Self-Sufficient

**C. NON-CERTIFIED SUPPORT STAFF:** That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to re-appoint the following individuals to the non-certified staff positions listed below for the 2005-06 school year only (pending adequate Federal, State and local funding and contingent upon adequate enrollment and program renewal):

**Name Program Assignment**

**1. Nancy Keyworth Parents as Teachers Educator**

**2. Emily Pearce-Spence Parents as Teachers Educator**

**3. Eugenie Sepe Parents as Teachers Educator**

**4. Kathleen Twomey Parents as Teachers Educator**

**D. EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR (ESY) SERVICES PROGRAM: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following individuals for the Summer 2005 session only of the Bristol Warren Regional Extended School Year (ESY) Services Program contingent upon sufficient enrollment:**

**Name Position**

**1. Kathleen Copeland \* Preschool Special Educator**

**2. Eileen Malafronte Preschool Special Educator**

**3. Tara Higgins Elementary Special Educator**

**4. Madlyn McArdle Elementary Special Educator**

**5. Judith Dyer Elementary/Middle Special Educator**

**6. Terry Gordon Elementary/Middle Special Educator**

**7. Kim Castigliero Secondary Special Educator**

**8. Julie Lawson Secondary Special Educator**

**9. Colleen Bonvegna \* Occupational Therapist**

**10. Kerri Champagne \* Occupational Therapist**

**11. Julie Krapf Physical Therapist**

**12. Debbie Allen Speech Language Pathologist**

**13. Noelle Laderer \* Speech Language Pathologist**

**14. Michelle Cordeiro Substitute Special Educator**

**15. Louise Pouliot Substitute Special Educator**

**16. Cheryl Rodrigues ESY/Summer School Secretary**

- 17. Monica Beres Elementary Teacher Assistant**
- 18. Cheryl Cabral Elementary Teacher Assistant**
- 19. Kathleen Lawrence Elementary/Middle Teacher Assistant**
- 20. Joann Bernard Elementary/Middle Teacher Assistant**
- 21. Denise Salamon Secondary Teacher Assistant**

**\* Pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements**

**E. ENRICHMENT PROGRAM: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following individuals for the Summer 2005 session only of the Bristol Warren Regional Enrichment Program contingent upon sufficient enrollment:**

**Name Position**

- 1. Maria Camara Art of Paper Mache**
- 2. Sarah Crowell Volleyball**
- 3. Joanne Dahmer The Science of Cooking**
- 4. Michelle Way DaSilva Scrapbooking**
- 5. Melody Gamba \* Modern Dance**
- 6. Marilyn Hewitt Piano Lessons**
- 7. Rebecca Peele \* Drawing, Architectural Drafting, Arts/Crafts, World Cultures**
- 8. Stephen Piette Football, Soccer, Basketball**
- 9. Cindy Pineau \* Summer Technology**
- 10. Joseph Perry Rezendes \* Kids in the Kitchen**

## **11. Stephanie Sanford \* Modern Dance**

**\* Pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements**

**F. READERS' AND WRITERS' CAMP:** That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following individuals for the Summer 2005 session only of the Bristol Warren Regional Readers' and Writers' Camp contingent upon sufficient enrollment:

### **Name Position**

- 1. Elaine Skibinski Coordinator**
- 2. Steven Brown Teacher (Guiteras)**
- 3. Bryan Lefcourt Teacher (Guiteras)**
- 4. Cheryl Robinson Teacher (Guiteras)**
- 5. Frances Souza Teacher (Guiteras)**
- 6. Connie Labao Teacher Assistant (Guiteras)**
- 7. Jennifer Boudreault Teacher (Kickemuit Middle)**
- 8. Eleanor Cox Teacher (Kickemuit Middle)**
- 9. Hilary Grieve-McDermott Teacher (Kickemuit Middle)**
- 10. Denise Goodman Teacher Assistant (Kickemuit Middle)**

**G. EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:** That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following applicants to the extracurricular positions listed below for the 2005-06 school year only (pending certification, funding and

**sufficient sign-ups to warrant running these programs):**

**HEALTH HUSKIES WELLNESS CENTER**

- 1. Thomas J. DelSanto Supervisor (Summer)**
- 2. Peter Sullivan Supervisor (Summer/Fall)**
- 3. Bryan Travers Supervisor (Summer/Fall)**

**H. ATTENDANCE OFFICER: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to re-appoint the following individual to the position of Attendance Officer as listed below:**

- 1. Rene G. Payette, Jr. Attendance Officer**

**Effective: July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006**

**Reason: In accordance with the Rhode Island General Laws Relating to Education (Ch. 16-19-3)**

**Funding: Operational Budget**

**I. NONRENEWAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF: The Superintendent recommends to the School Committee the nonrenewal, effective June 30, 2005, of the following administrator:**

**Monique Latessa Elementary Principal, Rockwell School**

**J. TERMINATION OF NON-CERTIFIED SUPPORT STAFF: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the**

**Superintendent to rescind the vote of June 13, 2005 of the following listed auxiliary school personnel and appoint the listed personnel to the positions indicated:**

**Name    Anticipated Assignment**

**Jillian Amato Teacher Assistant (Part Time)**

**Kathy Donegan Teacher Assistant (Part Time)**

**Denise Salamon Teacher Assistant (Leave of Absence Vacancy)**

**Robin Shaw Teacher Assistant (Part Time)**

**K. SUSPENSION,    NONRENEWAL    AND/OR    TERMINATION    OF  
CERTIFIED PERSONNEL:    That the School Committee confirm the  
recommendation of the Superintendent to rescind the vote(s) of  
February 14, 2005 as to the following listed teachers and appoint the  
listed teachers to the positions indicated:**

**Name    Anticipated Assignment**

**Michael Almeida Secondary Business**

**Gregg Burke Secondary Social Studies**

**Susan Castigliero Kindergarten (Leave of Absence – Sep. 2005-Jan.  
20, 2006 Only)**

**Augusta Costa Secondary Foreign Language (3/5 time)**

**Erin Farmer Middle School Foreign Language**

**Maureen Friedman Secondary Social Studies**

**Hilary Grieve-McDermott Special Educator**

**Sarah Jacobs Elementary Art**

**Kerry Mastriano Secondary English**

**Christopher Munzert Secondary Science**

**Elizabeth Pagano-Travers Secondary Special Educator**

**Jennifer Saarinen Middle School Mathematics/Science**

**Carol Schlink Secondary Drama (3/5 time)**

**Peter Sullivan Health/Physical Education/Adapted Physical Education**

**James Sweeney School Psychologist**

**L. LEAVE OF ABSENCE:** That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to grant a leave of absence for a Middle School Special Educator as follows:

**1. Renee MacDougall Special Educator – Kickemuit Middle**

**Effective: September 3, 2005, for 6-8 weeks**

**Reason: Maternity leave in accordance with**

**Article 21, Section L1 of the Master Agreement**

**M. RESIGNATIONS:** That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the resignations listed below:

**1. Douglas J. Lanzire Health/Physical Education Teacher –**

**Effective: June 17, 2005**

**Reason: Retirement**

**2. Joanna S. King School Psychologist – Mt. Hope High**

**Effective: End of the 2004-05 School Year**

**Reason: Personal**



**3. Steven J. Babiec Science Teacher – Mt. Hope High**

**Effective: June 20, 2005**

**Reason: Retirement**

**4. Melissa P. Dembrow Special Educator – Hugh Cole**

**Effective: June 17, 2005**

**Reason: Personal**

**5. Thomas J. Spadoni, Jr. Industrial Technology Teacher – Mt. Hope High**

**Effective: End of 2004-05 School Year**

**Reason: Personal**

**6. Robert Arsenault Marching Band Director – Mt. Hope High**

**Effective: End of 2004-05 School Year**

**Reason: Personal**

**7. Melissa V. Labonte Marching Band Asst. Director – Mt. Hope High**

**Effective: June 17, 2005**

**Reason: Personal**

**Recommendation #S2005-26, Section K**

**Mr. Estrella motioned to accept Superintendent's Recommendation**

**#S2005-26, Section K; Ms. Travers seconded. Mr. Estrella commented that the District has had to lay off at least 50 certified staff in the past two years as a result of the budget; it is not simple or easy to make staffing cuts; this recommendation is made to allow the School Committee to do its job—accept a balanced budget by July 1. The best possible recommendations are made for the moment, but the door does not close. The elementary student numbers have risen and we need to know there is enough money to accommodate them all. Decisions must be rational; this recommendation does not include the position talked about tonight; we cannot be held hostage. On a show of hands, the motion to accept passed by a vote of 7 to 0 with Mr. Brule abstaining and Mrs. McBride choosing not to vote.**

**Recommendation #S 2005-27: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the Administrators' salaries for 2005-2006. (see Report of the Director of Administration and Finance)**

**Mr. Estrella motioned to approve; Mr. O'Dell seconded. Some members felt Executive Session was necessary.**

**Mrs. Kinsella motioned to table for further discussion. Mr. Saviano seconded.**

**Mr. Estrella motioned to go into Executive Session for legal advice; Mrs. Kinsella seconded. The motion was taken off the floor.**

**The motion to table passed by a vote of 5 to 2 with Mr. Estrella and Mr. O'Dell voting no, Mr. Brule abstaining and Mrs. McBride choosing not to vote.**

**Recommendation #S 2005-28: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the 2005-2006 school budget.**

**Mr. Estrella motioned to approve. Ms. Travers seconded. Mr. Skuba explained that the fee structure for after school activities was reviewed; this budget cuts the administrative staff by two, maxes out elementary class sizes at 24, privatizes the technology staff, reduces line items where ever and as much as possible, cuts staff but increases reading and math teachers where they are needed the most, and the new contract will save money over the next three years—this budget gets us where the public wants us. Mr. Skuba encouraged those who spoke about issues tonight to join in the budget process next December. Mrs. McBride asked for the public’s help; next year will be tougher and will bring more cuts. Mrs. Kinsella commented that grades K, 1 and 2 class sizes of 22 to 24 are unacceptable; she also implored the help of the public with Joint Finance. Mr. Saviano said he will not support this budget because there are still some things that need adjusting, the budget is “too fat” and we have to cut the taxes in the towns we represent. Mrs. McBride feels the problem of the taxes is the towns’ problem, her concern is the children and the programs they enjoy. Mr. Saviano agreed that the children do come before the taxpayers and before the teachers and their contracts but we must be aware of our fiduciary responsibility. Mr. Silva felt that by tabling the vote on the**

administrators' salaries and voting on the budget is going through the back door because they are included in the budget. Mr. Estrella disagreed, that there is a line item in the budget for administrators, but disbursement of that line item is flexible. Mr. Saviano proposed the budget be amended. Attorney Henneous said that if the budget includes salaries for administrators as set in recommendation #27 which was not approved, he would suggest that the Committee cannot accept #28 and should schedule another meeting before July 1. Ms. Travers said that in the past, money has been moved from one line to another after budgets have been approved. There was much disagreement on whether to vote on the budget or table. Mr. Estrella moved to recess for five minutes; Ms. Travers seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **RECESS -- 10:13 PM TO 10:18 PM**

Attorney Henneous declared the Committee can vote on #28 without having approved #27; the Committee can take further action at another meeting. Mr. Silva questioned whether approval of the budget also approves the line items. Mrs. McBride stated that this is a balanced budget by accounting practices and our attorney has advised a vote on the budget is permissible.

Mr. Silva motioned to table for the missing item. The motion was not seconded.

Mr. Saviano motioned to amend the recommendation to approve the

**budget without the administrator salary line item. The motion was not seconded.**

**The original motion to approve Superintendent's Recommendation #S2005-28 passed by a vote of 6 to 1 with Mr. Saviano voting no, Mr. Brule abstaining and Mrs. McBride choosing not to vote. Mr. Silva reiterated that the administrative line item was approved. Ms. Travers said that they have not approved the amount to each individual administrator.**

**Recommendation #2005-27 will be voted on at the July 11th meeting. Mrs. McBride told the Committee to contact the Superintendent with comments about administrator salaries.**

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION – 10:45 PM**

**In accordance with Open Meeting Laws 42-46-5(a)(1)-(9), 2(b), Mrs. Kinsella motioned to go into Executive Session at 10:45 PM for legal advice and personnel discussion. Ms. Travers seconded. The motion passed unanimously. No votes will be taken.**

#### **RESUMPTION OF MEETING – 11:14 PM**

**Discussed in Executive Session was legal advice and personnel.**

## **ADJOURNMENT – 11:15 PM**

**There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Skuba, seconded by Mrs. Kinsella, motioned to adjourn at 11:15 PM. The vote was unanimous.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**William M. O'Dell, Secretary**

**/ca**